Garbage Gazette

Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection

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Estuary Household Hazardous Waste Facility Breaks Ground

The Connecticut River Estuary Regional Planning Agency (CRERPA) broke ground on the construction of the state's fourth permanent household hazardous waste facility on Wednesday, May 21, 2003. The facility, located in Essex near the town transfer station, will serve residents from the towns of Essex, Clinton, Old Saybrook, Lyme, Old Lyme, Westbrook, Chester, Killingworth and Deep River. The other permanent facilities are located in New Haven, Manchester and Willington.

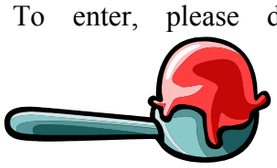
Construction is expected to be completed by September, which will give residents a chance to get rid of their hazardous waste this fall. Amy Cabaniss, the coordinator for this project for CRERPA, thanked the Selectman from the participating towns for their perseverance in seeing this project to this point. The region has debated the idea of building a permanent facility since 1993. The town secured a state grant to plan, design and construct the facility in 1999.

Pete Webster, as the selectman of the host community of Essex, had the honor of hoisting the first shovel of dirt. David LeVasseur, former First Selectman of Killingworth and now Undersecretary of Intergovernmental Relations at the Office of Policy and Management, commended the other town officials for their "political will" to see the construction come to fruition.

A permanent facility will give residents in participating towns more opportunities to safely dispose of their household hazardous waste than the current system of two or three collections per year. Towns on the fringes of the region will host satellite collections for the convenience of their residents. The facility is also permitted to handle certain small businesses and hazardous waste from municipal buildings.

Green School Contest Entry Forms on the Web

The Connecticut Recyclers Coalition (CRC) will continue to sponsor the green school contest for the 2003-04 school year. This contest, now in its' sixth year, recognizes schools that have great recycling programs. Three schools, one elementary, one middle and one high school, will be chosen to receive this honor. Winning schools receive a unique green plaque made from waste soybeans and recycled newspaper. Awards are presented at the CRC annual meeting each fall. The contest is co-sponsored by the HP HOOD Corporation, which provides an ice cream party for all of students and staff at the winning schools. Most importantly, the winning schools serve as mentors for other schools that need to improve their recycling programs. To enter, please download the application from the CT DEP website at www.dep.state.ct.us/wst/recycle/ctrecycles.htm. The entry forms are available under the America Recycles Day button. The application form also lists past winners of the contest. Entries are due no later than October 24, 2003.



Turn in those Sneakers!!

The deadline for collection of athletic shoes through the NIKE program, coordinated by the Connecticut Recyclers Coalition, is drawing near. All collected shoes should be turned into one of the satellite collection points before May 30, 2003 (or as soon as possible after that date). Remember shoes with metal components such as eyelets or cleats cannot be accepted and the shoes should be dry. If the shoes are not packaged in gaylords, we prefer that they be packaged in clear plastic bags to ensure that they stay dry and are not contaminated with other materials. If you are not certain where to bring your shoes, please visit the NIKE website at www.nikebiz.com/reuseashoe. There is a listing of collection sites throughout Connecticut. Contact the one nearest you to see if they will be able to accept your shoes. If there is no one in your area, you will need to transport your shoes to the final consolidation point at Willimantic Waste, Willimantic. Please call ahead (contact information on the NIKE site) to let them know that you are coming with sneakers and what quantity you are bringing. NIKE will be sending only one trailer to pick up shoes from the entire state in June so shoes that are not at the final consolidation point by this date cannot be accepted. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact Evelyn Golden at (860) 658-7172. Thanks for participating in this exciting project! Thousands of shoes have already been collected, watch future issues of the Gazette for our final count.

Register for the NRC Congress- September 14-17, 2003

The National Recycling Coalition will hold its' annual congress in Baltimore, Maryland on September 14-17, 2003. The early registration deadline is July 31, 2003. Visit www.nrc-recycle.org to get detailed information about the Congress. The Congress is a great event that features tours, fun social events, educational sessions, an expo of recycled products, equipment and related services and an unparalleled opportunity to meet with recycling professionals from around the country. Registration forms, hotel information and a list of educational sessions are now available.

Connecticut Recycles Day Event Planners Guide Available on the Web

It is not too early to start planning your Fall Connecticut Recycles Day Event. Event registration forms and sample "promise cards" are available on the CT DEP website at www.dep.state.ct.us/wst/recycle/ctrecycles.htm. Select the America Recycles Day button and then choose the Event Planners Guide. This guide also has a series of FAQs for new event organizers, a summary of program highlights for the past 6 years and a list of ideas for possible events. Anyone- a school, a business, a government entity or non-profit- can host an event. It is not too early to register. Events must take place between September 1-November 20, 2003 to be considered a Connecticut Recycles Day event. Due to budget issues, our supply of promotional materials will be more limited than in past years. So don't delay, once you have an event date, please send in your form. We will start distributing materials in late August. Keep checking the site over the summer for updates regarding events, state and national prizes and other available materials.

FEMA offers Web-Based Course on Household Hazardous Materials

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) offers a web-based course to help citizens prevent injury that can occur from improper use of common chemical products that are used in the home. To enroll in the course go to www.training.fema.gov/EMIWEB/IS/. Select the list of available courses. From this list select IS-55 to complete the course on-line. A certificate will be issued if you pass the final exam with 75% or better.